

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENCE (SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA):

(a) Yes.

(b) One contract for recaning of chairs was concluded in May 1953 for Rs. 1/11/9 per square foot and after its expiry another has been concluded in this month for Rs. 1/7/11 per square foot. One contract for restringing of charpoys was concluded in June 1953 for Rs. 3/10/9 per charpoy and after its expiry another is being concluded.

As the quantity of work fluctuates, a comparison of the actual expenditure incurred last year and this year would give no idea of the saving to the Government. The saving, however, per square foot recaned is As. 7 in the first contract and As. 0-10-10 in the second contract and per charpoy is Rs. 1-1-10 in the first contract.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: May I know what is the total profit that the Government had in giving these contracts as compared with last year?

SARDAR S. S. MAJITHIA: In recaning in 1952-53 it will be about Rs. 18,492 and in restringing of charpoys about Rs. 60,415.

#### COMPLAINTS AGAINST INCOME-TAX OFFICERS IN RAJASTHAN

\*382. SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Will the Minister for Finance be pleased to state:

(a) what is the cadre and working strength of Income-tax Officers in Rajasthan;

(b) whether any complaints of corruption have been received against any of them; and

(c) if so, what action has been taken on those complaints?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI M. C. SHAH): (a) The sanctioned strength of Income-tax Officers in Rajasthan is 17 while the working strength is 14.

(b) Yes, Sir. Some anonymous and pseudonymous complaints have been received against some of them.

(c) The allegations against five officers were, on investigation, found to be false. In respect of others, investigation is still proceeding.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Is it a fact that some of these officers have been transferred because of such complaints reaching this office?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: No.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Have this Government no special agency to control and check corruption among the Income-tax Officers?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: Yes. We have got a Director of Inspection (Investigation) who looks into all these complaints and we have got a special section which deals with all these complaints about corruption.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Do you receive any reports regarding the reputation of your officers? Is there any practice to receive certain reports regarding the reputation of the officers?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: Yes.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Are you aware that costly At-Homes are arranged in honour of these officers getting Rs. 200 to Rs. 300?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: I don't know about it.

SHRI MAHAVIR TYAGI: They are not.

PROF. G. RANGA: The ex-Minister of State for Finance is saying something.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: May I know if it is a general practice to transfer these officers merely on such complaints and are you aware that there is a general feeling that at least two or three officers posted at Jodhpur are making about Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 6,000 a month?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: As I have said, we have received complaints against some of the officers. As I have stated already, about five complaints were duly investigated and found thoroughly baseless. There are still certain complaints about which investigations are going on.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: I am citing concrete instances.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No specific individuals.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: I am not referring to individuals. Are you aware that one of your officers arranged insurance business to the tune of Rs. 4 lakhs from your assessees?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: I have not got that information. If that information is supplied to me by the hon. Member I will immediately enquire into it and take necessary action.

SHRI RAJAGOPAL NAIDU: In replying to the question the hon. Minister has been saying that the complaint that is received is rather anonymous and pseudonymous. Does Government investigate into letters which are anonymous and pseudonymous?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: We just look into the complaints and if there are certain points which can be looked into, even if they are anonymous, we ask the Director of Inspection (Investigation) to look into those matters and find out the truth.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE: Is the Minister in a position to give us an idea of Income-tax evasion in Rajasthan?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That does not arise here.

#### LOSS IN REVENUE DUE TO EXEMPTIONS FROM EXPORT DUTIES

\*383. SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: Will the Minister for FINANCE be pleased to state the estimated reduction in revenue on account of exemptions

from export duties granted during the month of October 1953.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FINANCE (SHRI M. C. SHAH): It is estimated on the basis of past exports of the articles on which export duties were reduced in the month of October that the possible reduction in revenue would be in the neighbourhood of Rs. 2 crores. On the other hand, the exports would probably have declined, if the duties had not been abolished.

SHRI P. C. BHANJ DEO: May I know if there will be any corresponding reduction in the expenditure on account of the losses?

SHRI M. C. SHAH: I don't think there will be any possible reduction because the Customs authorities are there, though some of the items have been dropped.

#### COURTS OF WARDS FOR THE ESTATES OF RULERS OF INDIAN STATES

\*384. SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Will the Minister for STATES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of estates of Rulers of Indian States which are at present under Courts of Wards; and

(b) whether Government propose to undertake any legislation under entry 34 in List I of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution; if so, when?

THE MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS AND STATES (DR. K. N. KATJU): (a) Four.

(b) Yes; as soon as the examination of the issues involved is completed.

SHRI H. C. MATHUR: Is it not a fact that more than 4 years back you had prepared a Bill and circulated it and yet nothing is coming? What are the reasons? I submit that about 4 years ago the legislation which you promise now had been prepared and had been circulated. What are the difficulties in your bringing that before Parliament?